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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 17, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANN M. KUSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

JUST SAY NO TO EARMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the announcement of MIKE GARCIA's election makes it official: The American people have entrusted Republicans with the House majority.

They do so at a time of unprecedented fiscal peril for our country: 40-year high inflation, economic recession, and an approaching debt crisis, all driven by the most reckless spend-

ing in our Nation's history. History is screaming this warning at us: nations that bankrupt themselves aren't around very long.

Republicans must reclaim the mantle of fiscal integrity and fiscal responsibility, and we should start by renouncing the tawdry, corrupt, and irresponsible practice of congressional earmarks, in which individual Congressmen direct spending to pet projects in their districts or grants to favored supporters, bypassing merit-driven competition.

I have proposed to the House Republican Conference a rule forbidding congressional earmarks and expect a vote on it when we return after Thanksgiving.

Earmark supporters argue that the power of the purse rests with Congress; therefore, its elected Members, and not unelected bureaucrats, should make these decisions.

Well, no, not exactly. Representatives are supposed to be biased toward their districts; that is why Congress is designed to act collectively. Ever since Magna Carta, it has been a settled principle of good governance that the power to appropriate funds should be separated from the power to spend them.

This is at the heart of the constitutional separation of powers: Congress appropriates funds but cannot spend them; and the President spends funds but cannot appropriate them. This is the single most important protection we have against political corruption and pork barrel spending. Earmarks undermine this principle, and it is no coincidence that most of the congressional scandals over the years have involved earmarks.

A local company produces a product the Pentagon neither needs nor wants. So what to do? Well, it simply ingratiate itself with the local Congressman and has him tell the Pentagon what it needs and who will provide it.

Then it rewards him lavishly at election time and repeats.

Worthy projects, in open competitive bidding, do not need earmarks; they rise or fall on their merits. And if there is such a thing as a "good" earmark, the price to be paid is all the bad ones. That is a high price indeed.

Just the last omnibus spending bill in March included nearly 5,000 congressional earmarks totaling \$9 billion for some of the most egregious examples of waste in the Federal budget: feral swine management in Arkansas, a national atomic testing museum in Las Vegas, a sheep experiment station in Idaho.

Now, Members can and should advocate for their districts, and make the case for projects they deem worthy of the money that Congress has appropriated. The problem with earmarks is blurring these two rules and having Members both advocate and decide.

Now, many say they don't trust this President and his deputies to administer these funds appropriately and evenhandedly, and I agree. But if you don't trust the President to administer the funds that we appropriate, then don't give him the money, period.

We hear that earmarks simply assure that local governments get a fair break. No, what they actually do is turn the Federal budget into a grab bag for local pork spending by the most powerful Members in Congress; and they undermine the central tenet of federalism: that local projects should be financed by local communities and Federal spending reserved for the Nation's general welfare.

When a local government proposes an earmark, what is it saying? It is saying the project is so low on its priority list it doesn't dare spend its own taxpayers' money. But it is perfectly happy to have taxpayers in other communities foot the bill.

The result is a long list of dubious projects that rob St. Petersburg to pay

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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St. Paul for projects that St. Petersburg doesn't benefit from, and St. Paul doesn't deem worthy enough to spend its own money on.

Finally, it is said that earmarks can "grease" legislation by buying off the votes of individual Members. Add a few local projects for that Member, and suddenly a bill he would never vote for on its merits becomes a local imperative overriding his sound judgment. But explain to me, how is that a good thing?

Our new majority needs to make a dramatic, concrete, and credible statement that business as usual in Washington is over. Is there a more powerful statement we can make than to swear off this wasteful and corrupting practice of congressional earmarking?

AMERICA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOTO. America, we have lift off. In a surge of fire, thunder, and smoke, Artemis I lit the early morning sky and was launched into the cosmos. At 9 million pounds of thrust, Artemis I is the most powerful rocket ever launched from the Earth. I was honored to see this historic flight firsthand early yesterday morning.

Now, after 50 years, America takes its first major step toward going back to the Moon; and we are bringing our many international partners with us, including the EU, Japan, Canada, and other allies.

In Central Florida, we locals beam with pride that Artemis launched from the storied 39B pad from Cape Canaveral.

This first mission was a long time in the making. The Orion spacecraft began to be developed during the Constellation program from 2005-2010.

In 2017, I was proud to vote formally to establish the Artemis program. Over the next 5 years, America got to work, including every State. Many Central Floridians helped build or assemble the Orion capsule, the Space Launch System, the crawler transporter, and other components.

During that 5-year period, NASA and SpaceX also kept busy on another key project, launching the Crew Dragon spacecraft. On May 30, 2020, I saw, firsthand, Astronauts Bob and Doug launch in the Spacecraft Endeavour and dock at the International Space Station. This was the first crewed launch from American soil in 9 years.

Since then, we have seen multiple SpaceX and Blue Origin crewed flights. Travel in low Earth orbit to and from ISS is now a regular occurrence in Central Florida.

With these flights well in hand, NASA turned its efforts toward deep space exploration once again. As the most powerful rocket ever to fly from the Earth, we knew the first Artemis launch would never be easy. But America never gives up.

It turned out that, after two scrubbed launches, the third time was the charm. As I stand here this morning, the Orion spacecraft just had its next burn to set it on a course for a lunar flyby. The closest approach to the Moon will be on November 21, before entering a distant retrograde orbit around the moon on November 25. It will roughly travel 1.3 million miles, farther than any other crew-designed spacecraft that has ever traveled.

It is a test flight, of course, so we will push Orion's capabilities to the maximum to ensure it is safe for future astronauts. Then Orion will return to the Earth in about 25½ days. After that, NASA will construct extensive evaluations of the returning Orion capsule.

From there, the future of crewed lunar spaceflight will begin to accelerate. In 2024, *Artemis II* will be the first crewed launch around the Moon in a new craft. In 2025, *Artemis III* crew will have the first woman and next man land on the Moon. And in 2027, *Artemis IV* will dock with the Lunar Gateway Space Station and begin our permanent presence on the Moon.

We will seek to discover water, learn from the harsh lunar environment, and advance new technologies. By the 2030s, these experiences and innovations will help us prepare to go to Mars and beyond.

For today, let us take a moment to appreciate and thank the tremendous accomplishments of Administrator Bill Nelson and the amazing people at NASA. Yesterday was a critical milestone in our country's space history. This is a first major step for America to go back to the Moon, and then on to Mars and beyond.

CONGRATULATING JASON MAREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Jason Maree of Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Maree had his Pass in Review for the United States Navy, an important step in passing basic training and becoming a sailor.

To his family and those who know him well, Jason is a driven and dedicated person. When he graduated from Northern Cambria High School this spring, he knew military service was the best avenue for his life.

Coming from a family where his mother is retired from the Army, and his grandfather served in the Marine Corps, Jason naturally felt a call to serve after high school.

Prior to serving in the United States Navy, Jason was an active member of his community and served on the Northern Cambria Volunteer Recreation Board.

We are thankful, both as a community, and as a Nation, for Jason Maree

and for all those who are serving in our military.

Congratulations on becoming a sailor in the United States Navy, Jason.

CONGRATULATING AMY SHIELDS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amy Shields of the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, or AHUG, on being named to the Pennsylvania top 100 in agriculture list.

The hardwood forest products industry represents a major part of Pennsylvania's economy. Pennsylvania's Allegheny Plateau region alone produces 80 percent of the cherry hardwood supply of the entire world.

This is a critical ingredient for producing furniture and home goods for customers at home and abroad. This industry is fortunate to have their interests represented by Amy Shields, who is the current Executive Director of AHUG and the voice of the timber industry in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Shields is a longtime veteran of the timber industry and has been a tireless advocate for business across 14 counties in Northern Pennsylvania.

Because of her efforts, loggers, sawmills, and hardwood manufacturers can continue to provide the highest-quality forest products to the world.

Congratulations, Amy, on this great accomplishment.

CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA 4-H DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pennsylvania 4-H Dairy Judging Team on their top honors at the 100th National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at the World Dairy Expo.

In October, the Pennsylvania team traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, to compete in the dairy cattle judging contest. The Pennsylvania team was made up of four members, with Ellie Curtis of Warren County representing the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District.

Their hard work paid off. Ellie Curtis placed fourth overall with the Ayrshires. As a team, Pennsylvania was first for overall placing for Jerseys. They ranked second in oral reasons, Brown Swiss and Guernseys, third for Ayrshires, and fifth for Holsteins.

As a result of their victory, the team has qualified to represent the United States this summer at the International Dairy Judging Contest in Glasgow, Scotland.

Congratulations to Ellie and the entire Pennsylvania 4-H Dairy Judging Team.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indiana County Conservation District on their 75th anniversary celebration.

Since 1947, the Indiana County Conservation District, or ICCD, has been protecting the natural resources of Indiana County and working to improve